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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Egypt

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Efforts of Soviet Church to Win Support  
of White Russian Church in Egypt

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 30 January 1947

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PAGES

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. St. Nicholas, the Russian Orthodox Church in Cairo, is located at 25 Sharia al-Bedak and consists of about sixty-five members, forty-five of whom are White Russians. At present it is headed by the Rev. Aristoclee, who was appointed by the parent church in Jerusalem.
2. After his election in 1945 as Patriarch, Alexei, accompanied by Nicholas, the Metropolitan of Leningrad, made a tour of inspection throughout the Middle East. During the tour a mass was held at the Greek Patriarchate Church in Cairo and an unsuccessful appeal was made to White Russians, Yugoslavians and Bulgarians to join the Moscow Church.
3. During his visit to Alexandria from 11-15 June 1945, Alexei succeeded in winning the support of the Rev. Alexei Dechtereff, priest of the Alexandria White Russian Church.
4. During the end of November and early December 1946, the new Metropolitan of Leningrad, Gregory, visited Egypt on his Middle East tour. Once again an invitation was extended to the White Russian Church in Cairo to join the Moscow Church. A committee composed of the Rev. Aristoclee, M. Skariatina and Dr. V. Bellin, represented St. Nicholas in a discussion with the Patriarch Christoforos of Alexandria, who is regarded as the spiritual head of the local church and who was acting as the representative of Gregory. The committee reaffirmed its earlier decision and again informed Gregory through Christoforos of its refusal to join the Moscow Church.
5. During Gregory's visit to Alexandria, the Rev. Alexei Dechtereff, priest of the Alexandria White Russian Church, was elevated to an Archimandrite in recognition of his recent service to the church.
6. Following his visit in Egypt, Gregory and his party returned to Palestine.

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